

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

5   **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A backlight module, comprising:

an external electrode lamp having an external electrode;  
an inverter for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and  
a clamp structure for clamping the external electrode, comprising:

10   a first fixing device comprising a first indentation;  
a second fixing device comprising a second indentation wherein the first and second indentations are used for clamping the external electrode of the external electrode lamp; and

15   a metal strip, connected to the inverter and located between the first and second fixing devices, comprising an electrical junction that is connected to the external electrode for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and

20   a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external electrode lamp and disposed outside the electrical junction, wherein one surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode.

Claim 2 (original): The backlight module of claim 1, wherein the metal strip is located between the first indentation of the first fixing device and the external electrode of the external electrode lamp.

25   Claim 3 (currently amended): The backlight module of claim 1, wherein the metal strip is ~~located between adjacent to~~ the second indentation of the second fixing device ~~and the external electrode of the external electrode lamp.~~

30   Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A clamp structure of an external electrode lamp,  
5 comprising:

a first fixing device comprising a first indentation;

a second fixing device comprising a second indentation wherein the first and  
second indentations are used for clamping ~~the~~an external electrode of the external  
electrode lamp; and

10 a metal strip, connected to the inverter and located between the first and second  
fixing devices, comprising an electrical junction that is connected to the external  
electrode for providing power to the external electrode lamp; and

a cushion having a closed ring surrounding the external electrode of the external  
electrode lamp and disposed outside the electrical junction, wherein one surface of the  
15 electrical junction is adjacent to the first fixing device and the other surface of the  
electrical junction is adjacent to the external electrode.

Claim 7 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 6,  
wherein the metal strip is located between the first indentation of the first fixing  
20 device and the external electrode of the external electrode lamp.

Claim 8 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 7,  
wherein the electrical junction of the metal strip corresponds to the first indentation of  
the first fixing device.

25

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of  
claim ~~7~~6, wherein the second indentation of the second fixing device further  
30 comprises a second protruding structure, in which the structure is physically in contact

with the external electrode of the external electrode lamp.

Claim 11 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 7,  
wherein the first indentation further comprises a first bevel for the convenience of the  
5 overall metal strip layout.

Claim 12 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 6,  
wherein the metal strip is located between the second indentation of the second fixing  
device and the external electrode of the external electrode lamp.

10 Claim 13 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 12,  
wherein the electrical junction of the metal strip corresponds to the second indentation  
of the second fixing device.

15 Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of  
claim 12, wherein the first indentation of the first fixing device further comprises a  
first protruding structure, in which the structure is physically in contact with the  
20 external electrode of the external electrode lamp.

Claim 16 (original): The clamp structure of an external electrode lamp of claim 12,  
wherein the second indentation further comprises a second bevel for the convenience  
of the overall metal strip layout.

25 Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

30 Claim 19 (canceled)

Appl. No. 10/711,257  
Amdt. dated August 06, 2007  
Reply to Office action of June 01, 2007

Claim 20 (canceled)